



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,938	07/21/2003	Nicolaas Dekker	1453/US/2	6369
<div>20686 7590 04/08/2010</div> <div>DORSEY & WHITNEY, LLP</div> <div>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT</div> <div>370 SEVENTEENTH STREET</div> <div>SUITE 4700</div> <div>DENVER, CO 80202-5647</div>				
EXAMINER				
PUROL, DAVID M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3634				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/08/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,938

Applicant(s)

DEKKER ET AL.

Examiner

David M. Puroi

Art Unit

3634

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-26 and 28-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 March 2009 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB06)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notes of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114
2. The terminal disclaimer filed on March 27, 2009 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
3. The drawings filed on March 27, 2009 do not comply with 37 CFR 1.173(b)(3) which requires any added figures to be identified as "New".
4. The specification is objected to for the section DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT does not set forth a description of newly added figure 8.
5. The listing of claims presented in the amendment filed June 17, 2009 is incomplete for it does not include claim 34. Correction is required.
6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 24-26,28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. These claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Newly added figure 8 depicts an additional vertical member adjacent to second vertical member 18 and an additional vertical member disposed between auxiliary tilt cord 14 and first vertical member 17 for which there is no disclosure in the specification as originally filed. While the applicant has labeled the additional vertical member disposed between the auxiliary tilt cord 14 and the first vertical member 17 with the reference numeral 33 there is no disclosure that this additional vertical member is the conventional loop 33 as set forth in the disclosure as originally filed.

Claim 24, lines 13-14 sets forth that the engaging means is on the auxiliary tilt cord and the adjacent first vertical member of the ladder while lines 19-23 state that the bead of the engaging means is fixed on the auxiliary tilt cord and vertically spaced away from the engaging collar. Inasmuch as the bead of the engaging means is not on the first vertical member of the ladder the limitation of the engaging means being on the auxiliary tilt cord and the adjacent first vertical member of the ladder is in conflict for such a condition cannot occur. Similarly, claim 26 reflects this noted defect.

The subject matter of claims 28 and 31 setting forth the vertical spacing of the engaging collars is not disclosed in the specification as originally filed.

The subject matter of claims 30 and 33 setting forth that there is at most one engaging collar for every five cross-rungs is not disclosed in the specification as originally filed.

Claim 34 appears to be a reiteration of claim 33.

7. Claims 1-23 are allowed.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to David M. Purol whose telephone number is (571) 272-6833.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell, can be reached at (571) 272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/David M Purol/
David M Purol
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634**